

1 Marc V. Kalagian
2 Attorney at Law: 4460
3 Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC
4 12631 East Imperial Highway, Suite C-115
5 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
6 Tel.: (562) 868-5886
7 Fax: (562) 868-8868
8 E-mail: marc.kalagian@rksslaw.com

Leonard Stone
6 Attorney at Law: 5791
Shook & Stone
7 710 South 4th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
8 Tel.: (702) 385-2220
Fax: (702) 384-0394
9 E-mail: CBrown@shookandstone.com

10 Attorneys for Plaintiff
Maira Wong Meraz

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

15 MAIRA WONG MERAZ,
16 Plaintiff,
17 vs.
18 KILOLO KIJAKAZI,
Acting Commissioner of Social
Security,
19 Defendant.
20) Case No.: 2:21-cv-01771-VCF
21)
22) STIPULATION AND PROPOSED
23) ORDER FOR THE AWARD AND
24) PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES
25) AND EXPENSES PURSUANT TO
26) THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE
27) ACT, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)
28)
29)
30)

22 TO THE HONORABLE CAM FERENBACH, MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF
23 THE DISTRICT COURT:

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Maira Wong Meraz be awarded attorney fees in the amount of NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE

1 dollars (\$975.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. §
2 2412(d). Plaintiff does not seek any costs in this matter. This amount represents
3 compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in
4 connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §2412(d).

5 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Maira Wong Meraz, the
6 government will consider the matter of Maira Wong Meraz's assignment of EAJA
7 fees to Marc Kalagian. The retainer agreement containing the assignment is
8 attached as exhibit 1. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2529 (2010),
9 the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to
10 any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset
11 Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine
12 whether they are subject to any offset.

13 Fees shall be made payable to Maira Wong Meraz, but if the Department of
14 the Treasury determines that Maira Wong Meraz does not owe a federal debt, then
15 the government shall cause the payment of fees and expenses to be made directly
16 to Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlffing, Inc., CPC , pursuant to the assignment
17 executed by Maira Wong Meraz.¹ Any payments made shall be delivered to Marc
18 Kalagian.

19 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Maira Wong Meraz's
20 request for EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on
21 the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount
22 shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Maira
23 Wong Meraz and/or Marc Kalagian including Law Offices of Lawrence D.

24

25 ¹ The parties do not stipulate whether counsel for the plaintiff has a cognizable lien
26 under federal law against the recovery of EAJA fees that survives the Treasury
Offset Program.

1 Rohlfing, Inc., CPC may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with
2 this action.

3 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Marc Kalagian and/or the
4 Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC to seek Social Security Act
5 attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of
6 the EAJA.

7 DATE: May 12, 2022 Respectfully submitted,

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LAW OFFICES OF
LAWRENCE D. ROHLFING, INC., CPC

/s/ Marc V. Kalagian

BY:

Marc V. Kalagian
Attorney for plaintiff
MAIRA WONG MERAZ

DATED: May 12, 2022 JASON M. FRIERSON
United States Attorney

/s/ Allison J. Cheung

ALLISON J. CHEUNG
Special Assistant United States Attorney
Attorneys for Defendant
KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting Commissioner of
Social Security (Per e-mail authorization)

ORDER

Approved and so ordered:
5-17-2022
DATE:



THE HONORABLE CAM FERENBACH
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 12631 East Imperial Highway, Suite C-115, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670.

6 On this day of May 12, 2022, I served the foregoing document described as
7 STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES
8 AND EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT,
9 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) on the interested parties in this action by placing a true copy
10 thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

11 Ms. Maira Wong Meraz
6777 Garden Grove Ave.
12 Las Vegas, NV 89103

I caused such envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid to be placed in the
United States mail at Santa Fe Springs, California.

15 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California
16 that the above is true and correct.

17 I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of this court at whose
18 direction the service was made.

19 _____
20 Marc V. Kalagian _____
TYPE OR PRINT NAME _____
/s/ Marc V. Kalagian _____
SIGNATURE _____

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
FOR CASE NUMBER 2:21-CV-01771-VCF**

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court for this court by using the CM/ECF system on May 12, 2022.

I certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system, except the plaintiff served herewith by mail.

/s/ Marc V. Kalagian

Marc V. Kalagian
Attorneys for Plaintiff

SOCIAL SECURITY REPRESENTATION AGREEMENT

This agreement was made on March 11, 2020, by and between the Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfling referred to as attorney and **Ms. Maira Wong Meraz, S.S.N. -6985**, herein referred to as Claimant.

1. Claimant employs and appoints Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfling to represent Claimant as Ms. Maira Wong Meraz's Attorneys at law in a Social Security claim regarding a claim for disability benefits and empowers Attorney to take such action as may be advisable in the judgment of Attorney, including the taking of judicial review.

2. In consideration of the services to be performed by the Attorney and it being the desire of the Claimant to compensate Attorney out of the proceeds shall receive **25% of the past due benefits awarded by the Social Security Administration to the claimant or such amount as the Commissioner may designate under 42 U.S.C. § 406(a)(2)(A) which is currently \$6,000.00, whichever is smaller, upon successful completion of the case at or before a first hearing decision from an ALJ.** If the Claimant and the Attorney are unsuccessful in obtaining a recovery, Attorney will receive no fee. This matter is subject expedited fee approval except as stated in ¶3.

3. The provisions of ¶2 only apply to dispositions at or before a first hearing decision from an ALJ. The fee for successful prosecution of this matter is **25% of the past due benefits awarded upon reversal of any unfavorable ALJ decision for work before the Social Security Administration.** Attorney shall petition for authorization to charge this fee in compliance with the Social Security Act for all time whether exclusively or not committed to such representation.

4. If this matter requires judicial review of any adverse decision of the Social Security Administration, the fee for successful prosecution of this matter is a **separate 25% of the past due benefits awarded upon reversal of any unfavorable ALJ decision for work before the court.** Attorney shall seek compensation under the Equal Access to Justice Act and such amount shall credit to the client for fees otherwise payable for that particular work. Client shall endorse such documents as are needed to pay Attorney any amounts under the EAJA and assigns such fee awards to Attorney.

5. Claimant shall pay all costs, including, but not limited to costs for medical reports, filing fees, and consultations and examinations by experts, in connection with the cause of action.

6. Attorney shall be entitled to a reasonable fee; notwithstanding the Claimant may discharge or obtain the substitution of attorneys before Attorney has completed the services for which he is hereby employed.

7. Attorney has made no warranties as to the successful termination of the cause of action, and all expressions made by Attorney relative thereto are matters of Attorney's opinion only.

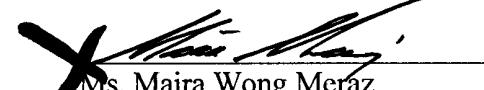
8. This Agreement comprises the entire contract between Attorney and Claimant. The laws of the State of California shall govern the construction and interpretation of this Agreement except that federal law governs the approval of fees by the Commissioner or a federal court. Business and Professions Code § 6147(a)(4) states "that the fee is not set by law but is negotiable between attorney and client."

9. Attorney agrees to perform all the services herein mentioned for the compensation provided above.

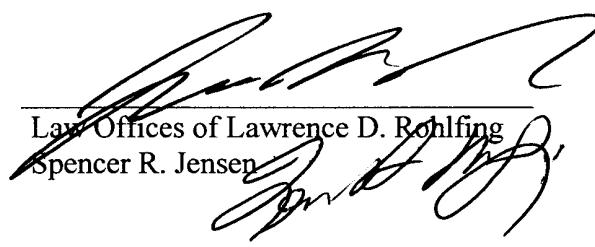
10. Client authorizes attorney to pay out of attorney fees and without cost to client any and all referral or association fees to prior or referring attorneys or bar referral service.

11. The receipt from Claimant of none is hereby acknowledged by attorney to be placed in trust and used for costs.

It is so agreed.



Ms. Maira Wong Meraz



Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfling
Spencer R. Jensen

Lawrence D. Rohlfling

Marc V. Kalagian

Marc V. Kalagian